

BRUSSELS MEETING NEEDS U. S. TO LEAD

Success of World Financial Conference Depends on This Country.

TO BE HELD THIS MONTH.

Twenty-six Governments Have Been Invited to Send Delegates to Congress.

Whether the World Financial Conference at Brussels this month will result in some concrete benefit or only in an array of statistics and economic platitudes depends entirely on the United States.

Invitations have been sent by the Council of the League of Nations to twenty-five governments besides our own, giving them the opportunity of sending delegates to the conference.

The Governments include Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Greece, Holland, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Serbo-Croat-Slovene State, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

An alphabetical coincidence puts England, the strongest of all those nations, at the end of the list. But a glance over it shows that all of them except Japan are in some way, territorially or in an economic sense, subject to England's will to a greater or a less degree.

Several salient points to be remembered in connection with the conference are:

1. Before any solution of the economic problems can be found the nations that expect to benefit must submit their financial operations, even the framing of their governmental budgets, the size of their armies, expenditures on public works, &c., to the domination of the nations agreed to in the League.

2. Along with a plan for extending additional financial assistance must run solvency; a plan for taking care of existing debts, public and private.

3. The true internal status of the Central Empires must be fully revealed or it will be impossible to tell how much aid is needed or how rapidly credit can be turned over.

4. Payment by the Central Empires and a method of tiding France over until she can receive payments due her will have to be settled to give governments and business men a basis for calculating their actions.

5. Agreements must be reached on tariff laws and terms on which goods will be exchanged over the boundaries of the new succession states of Austria, as well as between Austria and Germany. Otherwise interminable difficulties will arise.

The iron deposits in northeastern France are now largely useless because the smelters are in Germany. The smelters are nonproductive without iron deposits. The people of Austria cannot work and produce without the foodstuffs and fuel from Czechoslovakia and Jugo-Slavia.

6. A definite policy with regard to the Central Empires must be adopted. Unless a fixed goal is placed ahead of all the nations of Europe, reasonably assuring a settlement of the question of Bohemia, that continent will be in turmoil for years to come. Europe's future hope lies largely in Russia.

7. Pending the consolidation of European resources and the restoration of normal production, a large reservoir of credit must be created in an international bank to be found.

The important parts of this summary, so far as the United States is concerned, are paragraphs two and seven. Without America's cooperation it will be impossible to fund existing debts or supply new credit negotiable in an international sense. All other obstacles can be overcome without America. England already has power to recommend and almost control the monetary and governmental economy in all the Central Empires, gives to-day by English credit. The British banks, however, as well as the Government, have their own country's reconstruction plans to handicap them, and therefore the supply of new credit is limited. To go on indefinitely extending additional credits to the Continent would mean ruin to the pound sterling's international buying power. The help thus given to the Continent would do more harm than good.

From America is required only the assurance that we would agree to a plan to finance our own exports to Europe on a credit basis until they shall be able to pay. In the hands of the proper banking diplomats there need be no fear that America would have to sacrifice anything. Nothing more than the moral support of the United States Government would be required. Cancellation of allied indebtedness to us would cease to be talked about.

By delaying to cooperate in working out a scheme for European rehabilitation America is diminishing her chances of obtaining an early repayment of these debts. If we wish to obtain payment it will be necessary to adopt the attitude of a bold creditor who does not fear to risk further expenditure to redeem a bad debt.

BUY \$2,500,000 500 NOTES.

Bankers Will Offer Issue of 7 Per Cent. Securities at Par.

Wm. A. Read & Co. bought an issue of \$2,500,000 of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company 7 per cent. equipment trust notes and are offering them for sale at par. The Soo is controlled by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and in turn governs the Wisconsin Central, which it operates as a division into Chicago.

The notes are in series, direct obligation, and are issued against new equipment, whose cash contract cost is more than 33 1/3 per cent. in excess of the amount of the notes, the pledged equipment consisting of twenty-five freight and five switching locomotives, 500 box cars, six sleeping cars and six baggage cars. The notes mature in four installments of \$500,000, beginning on June 1, 1921, and ending on June 1, 1920.

London Wool Market.

London, May 7.—At the closing of the wool auction sales to-day 11,700 bales were offered. The market closed quietly. Fine merinos and crossbreds were 5 per cent. and occasionally 10 per cent. down, and other grades from 15 to 20 per cent. lower. America bought 2,900 bales, the home trade 25,000 and the Continent 35,000 bales during the day.

Report Land Bank Bill.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Joint stock land banks would be permitted to liquidate outstanding liabilities under a bill reported to-day by the House Banking and Currency Committee. Approval by at least two-thirds of the shareholders of the bank and the Federal Farm Loan Board would be required.

Custom House Receipts.

Receipts for duties at the Custom House yesterday were \$337,128.80, of which \$266,098.36 was for merchandise withdrawn from bonded warehouses and \$61,024.44 for recent importations.

COTTON MARKET.

The cotton market developed a weak undertone in yesterday's late trading and was rather unsettled in general appearance, the result of uncertainty on the part of Wall Street longs over outside conditions, particularly the unfavorable British felt insecure in the face of the wave of economy developing in this country and many of them lightened their commitments. Liverpool cables somewhat better than due, spot business in that centre being fairly active, 4,000 bales changing hands. Brokers with English connections were early buyers, the opening firmness. Weather news before the opening was rather bullish, but the official map, posted later, was not as bullish as had been expected. There was no precipitation of importance in the Eastern belt and showers in Texas were, of course, beneficial.

At the opening here the list was 18 to 30 spot bales being early buyers. The first half hour was hardly over when pressure increased and the list slipped off sharply from the opening level. July was a steady spot in the list throughout the day and fluctuated erratically.

Floor feeling was more bearish than it had been for some time. The reduction in wages by Paterson mills was pointed out as an ominous finger toward the much talked of coming deflation and the sluggish stock market was also of bearish influence.

The crop crop months showed an pronounced move toward lower levels in the early afternoon and not until the last hour was it extended to the near positions, May and July. The recent decrease in the export movement was not encouraging and private advices spoke on continued dull spot markets in the East and spinners buying in the West. The list of July was moderately active. Local interests were the principal late sellers, but there was scattered pressure from Southern sources, the market closing at about its lowest level, off 20 to 72 cents, and spots quoted at 41.10 cents down to 39.40 cents.

Price of cotton, High, Low, Close: May ... 40.69 40.70 40.10 40.10 June ... 38.55 38.60 38.03 38.03 July ... 36.80 36.83 35.85 35.85 August ... 35.33 35.35 34.50 34.50 September ... 34.80 34.82 34.50 34.50 March ... 34.85 34.88 33.89 34.00 Liverpool Cables—Spot cotton quiet and spot at 29 points advance, 26.33d.

COFFEE MARKET.

Sales, 4,000; American, 3,000; imports, 6,000; American, 1,000. Futures opened at 10 to 10 points advance, and were mostly steady to 10 points decline. May, 23, 1920; June, 23, 1920; December, 25, 1920; January, 23, 1920; Manchester—Yarns irregular; cloths quiet.

CONSOLIDATED EXCHANGE.

An advance of 8½ points from the early part of Atlantic, Gulf and West Indies to 172, and one of 3½ to 42½ in Texas and Pacific were the chief features of the final hour of yesterday's trading on the Consolidated Stock Exchange. There was marked irregularity in the balance of the list, oils reflecting an undercutting of strength, while steels, equipments and specialties gave evidence of liquidation of their charges.

Royal Dutch, New York, moved up to 213, Pan-American to 87, Mexican Petroleum to 171 and 172 and Texas Company to 49. United States Steel at its minimum receded 1½ to 94½. Crucible 10 to 134. Republic 2½ to 5½. Bethlehem Steel, B 2½ to 4, Republic 2½ to 8½. Baldwin Locomotive 2½ to 11½. American Locomotive 1¾ to 5½. Studebaker 1¼ to 7¾. Pierce-Arrow 1 to 5½ and International Corporation 1½ to 8½.

Range of prices: Thurs.

Open, High, Low, Close: Thurs.

May ... 15.25 15.30 15.25 15.25 June ... 15.10 15.15 15.50 15.40 July ... 15.10 15.15 15.50 15.40 August ... 15.10 15.15 15.50 15.40 September ... 15.24 15.25 15.10 October ... 15.10 15.15 15.50 15.40 November ... 15.10 15.15 15.50 15.40 December ... 15.10 15.15 15.50 15.40 January ... 15.10 15.15 15.50 15.40 February ... 15.10 15.15 15.50 15.40 March ... 15.10 15.15 15.50 15.40 April ... 15.10 15.15 15.50 15.40

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